

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE
MESSAGE, CONTROL AND REPORTING INTERFACE
FOR A DISTRIBUTED NETWORK ACCESS SYSTEM

5 In a network access system including an external processor and a
programmable access device, the external processor transmits a control message to
the programmable access device to establish a configuration of the programmable
access device. The programmable access device then communicates messages to
10 the external processor for service processing in accordance with the configuration.
For example, the control message may be a filter control message that establishes
a configuration of a packet header filter in the programmable access device. The
packet header filter then communicates network messages filtered from a packet
flow in accordance with the configuration established by the control message. To
15 limit the communication of network messages from the programmable access
device to the external processor, the programmable access device can send a
message setting message interface flags in the programmable access device. The
external processor may also transmit a monitor control message to the
programmable access device to establish a configuration of a monitor in the
programmable access device. The programmable access device then
20 communicates reporting messages to the external processor in response to the
configuration of the monitor.